

**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
S.B.184 AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022,
SEVERAL CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND
CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE
BALLOT
AND
H.B. 5262 AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING
ELIGIBILITY STATUTES.
Friday, March 4, 2022**

Karen Healy

Good morning Senator Flexer, State Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

I am Karen Healy and I am a registered voter in Hartford and a member of Keep the Promise Coalition and Disability Rights Connecticut.

I am here to testify in favor of bills S.B. 184 and H.B. 5262. Passing both bills is extremely important to me because I have a lot of physical disabilities and mental health issues. Since COVID started it was much easier for me to vote because I did not have to stand in line, which I am unable to physically do.

It is frustrating to me that I may no longer have an absentee ballot. If these bills do not pass it is like you are saying to me that

my vote no longer counts. Yet while living in CT Valley Hospital in Middletown there was never an issue with me getting a ballot then. Why is it that now that I am living in supportive housing it is so much more difficult for me to vote? I understand what I am voting for now MORE than I ever did while I was in CVH. This should not be the case. I should be allowed to vote by absentee ballot because of both my physical and mental health disabilities from now on. It means a lot for someone who has been out in the community for over 7 years to be able to say I am a voter, I do vote, I voted on my own.

A lot of people who were unable to vote and who REALLY do need to use an absentee ballot were able to vote in these last elections. So please let all of our voices be heard. Thank you for listening.

Do you have any questions?